CHBE 310
FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING
Spring 2016

LECTURE ROOM: DCH 1046
CLASS MEETING: 310 001 09:25AM - 10:40AM TR
310 002 10:50AM - 12:05PM TR

INSTRUCTORS

Dr Laura Segatori
Office: BRC 313
Office Hours: Mon 3.00-4.00pm,Wed 3.00-4.00 am, or by appointment
E-mail: segatori@rice.edu

Dr Marya Cokar
Office: AEL B214
Office Hours: TBD
E-mail: marya.cokar@rice.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Mitchel Brun
Office: BRC 802
E-mail: mb76@rice.edu

Yi-Lin Chen
Office: AEL B223
E-mail: yc77@rice.edu

Anna Crumbley
Office: AEL B223
E-mail: amc23@rice.edu

Santiago Martinez Legaspi
Office: BRC 303
E-mail: sm79@rice.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday 5.30-6.30 pm AEL B209
Wednesday 5.30-7.30pm AEL B209

COURSE WEBSITE
OWL-Space (http://owlspace.rice.edu/)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TOPICS

The objective of this course is to introduce the students to the current advances and potential of molecular biotechnology and biomolecular engineering. Fundamentals of molecular biology and biochemistry will be introduced and discussed from the prospective of genetic engineering and protein engineering applications.

Biotechnology is defined as "any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use". The topics covered in this course will reflect the highly interdisciplinary nature of this field and will include:

- Foundations of DNA, the central dogma of molecular biology, DNA replication, transcription, translation. Post-translational processing. Regulation. Biomolecular interactions.
- Tools of recombinant DNA: restriction enzymes, cloning and cloning vectors; Synthesis and amplification of DNA; Protein detection techniques.
- Cellular metabolism. Enzyme kinetics. Kinetics of cell growth and bioreactor design. Batch vs continuous reactors. Sterilization and purification of products.
- Expression of proteins in prokaryotic systems. Directed mutagenesis and protein engineering techniques.

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the molecular biology principles involved in the transfer of genetic information and learn how to manipulate them for research and industrial applications.
- Learn genetic engineering tools to control molecular and cellular processes.
- Learn the fundamentals of enzyme kinetics and metabolic pathways for the overproduction of metabolites.
- Learn the kinetics of cell growth and product formation (unstructured non segregated models)
- Learn the principles of bioreactor design and fermentor configurations.
- Learn the unit operations of a bacterial fermentation process
- Further develop skills for technical communications in a team environment

OUTCOMES:

Students completing this course will learn to:

- Design strategies for the isolation, detection, and amplification of DNA sequences, and for the selection of genes coding proteins with desired function.

- Apply genetic and protein engineering strategies for the design of biomolecular products for research and industrial applications.
- Calculate kinetics parameters that describe biomolecular interactions
- Calculate kinetics parameters for the design of immobilized enzyme reactors.
- Design bioreactors for the production of cell mass and recombinant proteins.
- Write a persuasive report and give a persuasive presentation addressed to a chemical engineering audience

CLASS ATTENDANCE

It is expected that students attend all lectures and participate to class activities and discussion. Although class material will be mostly posted on the class website, attending class will be necessary for its analysis and understanding.

GRADING POLICY:

Exam 1:	15 %
Exam 2:	15 %
Quizzes:	15 %
Group project (written):	10 %
Group project (oral):	10 %
Final Exam:	20 %
Homework Assignments:	15 %
	100 %

There will be two midterm examinations (exams 1, and 2), one group project and a comprehensive final exam. You will be allowed to use a "cheat sheet" (A4 paper format, instructions will be provided in class) Detailed instructions about the material covered in each exam will be given in class.

The two midterm exams are tentatively scheduled on (1) Thursday 02/25 7-9pm and (2) Thursday 03/24 7-9pm. If you have a conflict, you need to notify the instructor *within two weeks from the beginning of the semester*. You must provide a written request for medical or family emergency excuse. There will be no make-up examinations.

The comprehensive final examination will be a 3-hour, in-class examination. The date and time will be determined by the registrar's office.

The quizzes will be held in class. Detailed instruction about the material covered in each quiz will be given in class.

There will be several homework assignments that will count 15% of the total grade. Homework must be completed and turned in **on Thursday in class**. Late submissions with prior approval of the instructor will receive reduced credit. Homework assignment turned in after the solutions are posted will not be accepted.

While each student must submit her or his individual solutions to the homework problems, you are encouraged to work together. As for most science and engineering fields, group study, by stimulating critical thinking, typically provides a valuable method of learning and results in a broader understanding of the subject. However, please keep in mind that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Homework, quizzes and exams may be regarded if a written request with the original HW/quiz/test is presented within **one week from date they were returned**. Unclaimed homework, quizzes and exams will be stored in BRC 303.

HONOR CODE POLICY

Plagiarism is the undocumented inclusion of someone else's work within your work, and besides damaging your education, also violates Rice's Honor Code. The consequences for a Rice Honor Council violation typically range between an F in the course to a 2-semester suspension from Rice. We take plagiarism very seriously, be sure that you understand what is an appropriate level of collaboration before sharing information with a colleague. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor for an explanation of what constitutes an Honor Code violation.

You are not allowed to give or receive help during the quizzes and exams, unless instructed otherwise by the instructor or the teaching assistants. Any suspicion of honor code violations for homework, quizzes, or exams will be reported to the Rice Honor Council. Information about the Rice Honor System can be found at http://honor.rice.edu/

PREREQUISITES

Pre-requisite or co-requisite: CHBE 310 and MATH 211 or consent of the instructor.

TEXT

Required:

- Shuler and Kargi. *Bioprocess Engineering*. Prentice Hall. 2 Ed.
- Class notes and material distributed during the semester (posted on *Owlspace*)

Recommended:

- Okafor, *Modern and Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology*. Science Publishers.
- Glick and Pasternak. *Molecular Biotechnology*. ASM Press. 3 Ed
- Watson. Recombinant DNA. Scientific American Books.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All such discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.